Functional and Structural Changes in Planning Commission

440. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1375 given in Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the draft Ninth Five Year Plan has since been considered and approved by the National Development Council; and

(b) what functional and structural changes have been effected in the working of the Planning Commission in the context of implementation of Economic reforms so as to make the Commission a really relevant and effective body in the emerging economic scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Ninth Five Year Plan has been approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in its 48th meeting held on 19th February, 1999.

(b) As part of the functional and structural changes in the working of the Planning Commission, the Government have reconstituted the Commission with the Prime Minister as the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and four full-time Members, in addition to the Ministers of External Affairs and Finance and the Minister of State for Planning and Programme Implementation as Members.

Diversion of Central Assistance for States

441. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cases of diversion of Central assistance for State Plans to non-plans activities by some States have come to his notice;

(b) if so, the name of these States; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to prevent misallocation of Central assistance for State Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission is not aware of any diversion of central assistance for State Plans to non-plan activities except that the Special Category States have been allowed to utilise upto 20% of the net normal Central Assistance for meeting their non-plan gap. Further, Assam and Jammu & Kashmir States were allowed to utilise upto 30% of the net normal Central Assistance for non-plan gap during 1992-93.

(c) Under the existing guidelines, if the total Plan expenditure of a State in a particular year falls short of the approved outlay/revised approved outlay or the expenditure for earmarked sector/ schemes falls short of approved outlay for them, a proportionate cut in the normal central assistance is to be applied after allowing for use of permissible level of normal central assistance for non-plan gap.